

Free Money for Vocational Training or College for Current or Former Foster Youth



**Are you a current or former foster youth?
Do you want to get vocational training or go to college?
Then, read on—because a Chafee Grant is free money
that can get you there.**



Here are some answers to your questions

What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant Program gives up to \$5,000 annually in free money to **current or former foster youth** to use for vocational school training or college courses. You don't have to pay it back, and you can use the money for lots of things, like rent, childcare, and transportation!

What do I need to apply?

You must be enrolled in a:

- ◆ vocational school or college that is Title IV eligible
- ◆ course of study at least half-time
- ◆ course of study that is at least one year long and is Title IV eligible

And you must keep those grades up, or “maintain satisfactory academic progress.”

To apply, you must:

- ✓ be eligible, or have been eligible for foster care, between your 16th and 18th birthday, and not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1, 2004
- ✓ file two forms:
 - ◆ *2004-05 Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, or FAFSA. File online www.fafsa.ed.gov or get a paper form from your school. Students without a Social Security number or who are unable to complete a FAFSA may contact the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) for further instructions and assistance.
 - and**
 - ◆ *California Chafee Grant Program Application*. Send it to the Commission. The form is on our Web site at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov. Or, call the Commission and ask for an application.

How will I know if I'm selected?

The Commission will review your 2004-05 FAFSA and your Chafee Grant Application. The California Department of Social Services will verify your Independent Living Program (ILP) status and your school financial aid office will determine your financial aid eligibility. At that time, the Commission will send you a letter to tell you if you are receiving a grant or not.

How will I get the grant?

Your grant will be sent to the vocational school or college where you are enrolled. Talk to your school's financial aid advisor about how the school will disburse the grant.

Will the award affect my other school aid?

Receipt of this award **may** affect other financial aid you may be receiving, so be sure to check with your school's financial aid office.

How do I renew my Chafee Grant?

It's easy! Renewal students do not need to submit another 2004-05 Chafee Grant application, however, please complete the 2004-05 FAFSA. (Students without a Social Security number or who are unable to complete a FAFSA may contact the Commission for further instructions.) Also, report any name, address or school changes to the Commission as soon as possible to avoid any delay in awarding. The Commission will contact the Financial Aid Office of your vocational program or college to verify you are enrolled at least half-time, you are maintaining satisfactory academic progress and you have financial aid eligibility.

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The California Chafee Grant Program

Can I attend a vocational school or college outside California?

Yes, you can attend a California vocational school or college or one outside of California. Your vocational school or college and program of study must meet certain criteria. (See "What do I need to apply?")

Could I lose California Chafee Grant benefits?

Your Chafee Grant will not be paid if your enrollment in a vocational school or college falls below half-time or if you fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Can others help me learn about Chafee Grants for current or former foster youth?

Yes, you can contact your:

- ◆ socialworker/probation officer
- ◆ County/college ILP Coordinator
- ◆ school financial aid administrator/school counselor
- ◆ One-Stop Career Centers

How can I contact the Commission?

If you have questions regarding the California Chafee Grant Program:



You can write the Commission at:

California Student Aid Commission
Specialized Programs
Attn: California Chafee Grant Program
P. O. Box 419029
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029



You can e-mail your questions to the Commission at: *specialized@csac.ca.gov*



You can review general California Chafee Grant information. Just log onto the Commission's Chafee Web site at: *www.chafee.csac.ca.gov*



You can call 1-888-224-7268 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Let's Keep in Touch-

Make sure you contact us whenever there are changes in your:

- ◆ Mailing address
- ◆ School of attendance
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Name
- ◆ Social Security Number (SSN)
- ◆ Telephone number

